



New York Law School 2018–19 Title IX Campus Survey

INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 2019, in accordance with New York State's "Enough is Enough" (Article 129-B) legislation, New York Law School (NYLS) administered a biennial campus climate student survey—the inaugural survey having been administered in the spring of 2017. This report provides student feedback about the current campus climate concerning sexual misconduct. The survey inquired about unwanted sexual contact and sexual assault; student perceptions surrounding institutional response to sexual misconduct; incidents of sexual misconduct experienced by, observed by, or reported to student survey respondents; and insight into students' knowledge of applicable policies, services, and resources.

The information gathered from this survey will serve as a valuable resource as NYLS continues its efforts to enhance services and educational programming related to awareness, and prevention of sexual misconduct.

The survey link was emailed to all 995 enrolled students in the J.D. (Day and Evening Divisions) and LL.M. cohorts during the spring 2019 semester. The survey opened on April 1, 2019 and closed on May 23, 2019. NYLS received a 26% response rate (261 students). The survey was administered in accordance with accepted standards; NYLS solicited responses from active enrolled students across all class years, races and ethnicities, and sexual orientations. With respect to gender identity, 59% of responding students reported they are female; 37% self-reported as male; and 4% self-reported as genderqueer/gender non-conforming, questioning, or declined to state.

All responses were submitted anonymously. Respondents were not compelled to answer every question. The percentages indicated below are based on the number of students who answered a particular survey question.

Key Survey Results

Perceptions of Safety and Law School Responsiveness:

Student sentiment about campus safety was overwhelmingly positive with 97% of respondents either somewhat agreeing or agreeing that they feel safe on campus.

Knowledge of Title IX Policies, Title IX Personnel, and Resources

The vast majority of responding students (at least 80%) were aware of NYLS's Sexual Misconduct policies, were aware that NYLS has procedures for dealing with reported incidents of sexual misconduct, and agreed with the statement that NYLS provides adequate resources for students going through difficult times.

More than 80% of respondents reported that they understand the Title IX and Deputy Title IX Coordinators' roles with respect to complaints of sex- or gender-based misconduct and that they were aware of the difference between the NYLS Sexual Misconduct Policy and the penal law. About 72% reported that they were aware of resources for individuals who experience sexual misconduct. Additionally, 70% of responding students were aware of how to report sexual misconduct.

Incidents Involving Sexual Misconduct (Personally Experienced, Observed, or Informed of)

Students were surveyed about incidents of sexual misconduct they personally experienced, personally observed, or were informed of; 196 students responded to a question about whether such misconduct (experienced or observed/informed of) created an exclusionary, intimidating, offensive, or hostile learning environment at NYLS. Overall, they reported feeling safe on campus. The vast majority (86%) of responding students indicated that they had not experienced, observed, or been informed of instances of sexual harassment, and 95% reported they had not experienced, observed, or been informed of instances of sexual assault at NYLS during the 2018–19 academic year.

There were reports of eleven incidents of personal experiences with sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or non-consensual sexual contact.

Reporting Incidents Involving Sexual Misconduct (Personally Experienced, Observed, or Informed of)

Of students who responded that they experienced, observed, or heard about sexual misconduct, six indicated that they reported the incident to NYLS faculty or administrators.

Students who did not make a report about sexual misconduct to NYLS administration indicated that their reasons included that the incident did not affect them at the time, that they did not know where to go to make the report, and/or they were unsure of how the report would be viewed.

Bystander Intervention Readiness

Overall, the vast majority of NYLS students (about 90%) reported that they would take action if prohibited misconduct occurred in their presence. Such action would include:

- Confronting other students who make inappropriate or negative sexually related comments and gestures in their presence to get them to stop
- Reporting when other students engaged in sexually harassing or unwanted behavior in their presence
- Reporting, if aware, that a student used force or pressure to engage in sexual contact with another person
- Agreeing to be interviewed if they witnessed or had information relevant to a sexual misconduct case.

A smaller percentage (63%) indicated they would make a report if other students engaged in sexist comments, gestures, or jokes in their presence.

Training

The majority of students who participated in the training program reported that the program was “informative” or “very informative” with respect to their understanding of the definition of sexual misconduct (80%), the definition of affirmative consent (75%), how to report sexual misconduct (76%), and how to intervene as a “bystander” to prevent the occurrence of sexual assault against another student (80%).-

Moving Forward

Results of the survey have been shared with the NYLS senior administration. As with any survey data it collects, NYLS will use information from this survey to enhance its program of education, awareness, prevention, and support as part of its continued efforts to achieve a campus environment that is free of sexual misconduct.